

~ BEFORE FAITH CAME....

## GALATIANS 3:19 – 4:31

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~ The law is a ministration of condemnation and death. Breaking the law brings condemnation; and the penalty is death. Judgment and heavy burdens, which ultimately result in destruction, is the only possible result of attempting to be justified by the law. You don't keep it. You cannot keep it. The law of God is a weight that none — and I do mean *NONE* — can, or ever could, carry. It was four full reports ago that we began chapter three in Galatians, which opened with the apostle Paul giving a sermon to this church; and he called them "*foolish*" and "*bewitched*." Paul said the law was given that every mouth might be stopped, and the world become guilty before God. If that isn't clear enough, I don't know what would be.

John the Baptist opened his first sermon by calling his congregation — who had traveled way out into the wilderness to hear him — a "*generation of vipers*." Well, I'm going to skip the niceties and get right to my own message in this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God. May I highly suggest none of you read this report? Seriously, there are many other things you can go do. This message is so acidic and damning, I would rather you not hear it. As dissuasion, I am creating this report fifteen pages long; nearly six thousand words. Thank you.

We're not moving fast in our Spiritual Safari. I have been using this time to study the Bible more in-depth, pray more often, meditate further on the Word of God, listen more carefully to God, and ask Him for guidance in all paths of my life. It has never been my intention to publish these reports for profit, nor to sell them in manufactured book form. This is a ministry the Spirit of God leads people to Personally. Candidly, if God doesn't act as Travel Agent for their safari, they're not coming here. A private booking is required, friends. It's an exclusive, invitation-only tour. I believe He brings some people in for certain legs of the journey, too — and then leads them out on other paths — but I digress.

When I began this so-called safari, the agreement with the Lord on our first missionary journey was that I would just give the reports away for free — BUT — a basic level of support would be provided by Him to continue. God made good on His end for the entire first safari ministry, and our agreement continuous in regards to distribution; but I discovered that I woefully mishandled my contract negotiations in terms of compensation. It helps to actually study the Bible before making any deals with or vows to God, friends. I did much better with this second extension; but I digress — again.

This sophisticated modern world cares nothing for sound doctrine; not on any level. They will not tolerate it. The utterly non-sensical theological garbage and baby talk I see in religious circles is shameful. When and if the Lord decides it is time for me to pursue other avenues of ministry, then it will be less of a reflection on my Spirit-filled and Spirit-led ability to teach the Bible in an educated manner than it will be a reflection on those who refuse to acknowledge and support the work of the Lord by a man who just happens to honestly and truly love God, believe God, love, understand and believe the Word of God — and who has taken the time to actually learn it properly, correctly and completely in the sound doctrine of the apostles — so the Holy Spirit can advance it to you. If you are even still reading — or if you even care — let me know. Otherwise —

My previous exhortation was to read Galatians all the way through in one sitting ten thousand times — or as many as possible — and then read it all the way through another ten thousand times in a single sitting. I'm sure it's safe to say none of you did that; well, neither did I. Either way, Martin Luther said he was "*wed*" to this Book of Galatians. John Wesley asked, after preaching from Galatians, "*.... I came to this country to convert Indians but who is going to convert John Wesley?*" Well, Wesley was responsible for the largest modern-day revival anyone currently alive knows anything about; and that was neither an accident nor a coincidence.

See, friends, the *ONLY* way revival is ever going to happen is if *Y-O-U* will go into your room, close the door, take your Bible in your hand, and pray God will direct you to an educated, sincere, correct and complete Bible study; and then study the Bible all the way through from front to back. After we

do that, then we can draw an imaginary circle in the middle of our room, get inside the circle, and effectively pray in true repentance, saying, “.... *God, let revival begin inside this circle.*” Outside of following that prescription, to the letter, you are a fool and hypocrite if the word “*revival*” falls from your lips – or, actually, if you ever even think about the Bible again. And, for awareness, I am positive many people abjectly hate the things I say in my teachings — but you can just write them down — because that’s where you are at.

Honestly, friends, 99.666% of the nonsense in religion and the modern church is infantile, scripturally speaking; and ignorantly stupid, spiritually speaking. There’s just no other way to adequately describe the state of the churches’ confusion. The disconnected verses and irrelevant passages that are “*taught*” with restricted explanations have become perfectly laughable. I won’t even dignify the debased platform of evangelical politics in this report. No one ever learned the Bible that way — you may be sure. Further, a sincere and educated Bible study cannot be executed in single-verse ‘*memes*’ — because that would be impossible — I just thought you all might like to know these things.

Of course, God refuses to accept works of any kind from any man in exchange for salvation. God says, “*the righteousness of man is filthy rags in My sight.*” In Romans chapter four verse five, this is spelled-out in unmistakable terms; and I suggest you look that verse up now. God simply refuses to accept law keeping, friends — period. Paul has made it more than clear, more than once, that the law can not save us — it can only bring death and judgment. We’re told that the law was added for the sake of transgressions. The law was given to us to show us we are sinners in need of a Savior! The law never removes sin – it only *REVEALS* sin. Even so, the law has a powerful and useful purpose in the plan of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, His Son – as revealed by His Holy Spirit through the Trinity. I hope you are reading all of this super carefully; if anyone is reading at all.

Every one of us has a bathroom in our homes with a washbasin and a mirror above it. The washbasin serves one purpose, and the mirror serves another purpose. When we look in the mirror and discover a smudge on

our face, we don't try to remove the smudge by rubbing up against the mirror. Someone says, "... *that's absurd!*" It sure is, my friend. It's as absurd as many church members who are rubbing up against the mirror of the law of God thinking they are going to remove the smudges of sin in their lives. The mirror of the law only shows us who we are — and *what* we are. It takes the water of the Word of God concerning the blood from the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, to wash our sinful spots away. There's no other remedy.

Alright, if you are still reading, then the law took you by the hand at some point in your life and brought you to the place where you could be taught about Jesus. If the law didn't lead you to Christ Jesus, then you're not reading this report at this point. You are on the wrong path in life; because you haven't come to Him yet. You may know Who He is and what He does — and some people memorize the entire Bible — but if you do not realize you are a sinner who needs a Savior, you haven't been born again. So, that leads us to a very wonderful and extraordinary section of Scripture in our safari today....



***19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.***

***20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.***

***21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.***

***22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.***

***23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.***

**24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**

**25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.**

**26 For ye are all the sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**

~ Paul now discusses the myriad privileges we receive when fully trusting and obeying Christ; truths that we could never receive under law. The law never deemed an Old Testament saint to be a “*son of God*.” Only Christ can do that. More specifically, only faith in the Lord Jesus can make us sons of God. “*Children*” in verse twenty-six, means sons; according to the closest Greek translation. It also means “*legitimate*” sons of God. Of course, God only has legitimate sons – but I think the emphasis is proper. Faith + nothing = the salvation of a legitimate son of God. The individual Israelite in the Old Testament under the law was *NEVER* referred to as a son of God – *ALWAYS* a “*servant*.” God referred to the elect nation of Israel, collectively, as His “*son*” – but never called the individual Israelite a son. Further, the elect nation was always a disproportionately small remnant.

Remember, Moses was on deeply intimate terms with God Almighty. However, when Moses died, God said, “*Moses, My servant, is dead.*” That was God’s epitaph for the Old Testament saint — a man who was very close to understanding God. God always referred to David, the man after His Own heart – as a *SERVANT*. See, even if we could keep the law – which we can’t – but *IF* we did, it would be *OUR* righteousness. And our righteousness is, and always will be, inferior to the righteousness of God – which is justification by faith.

**John 1:**<sup>11</sup> *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*<sup>12</sup> *But as many as received him, to them gave he power (the authority, the right) to become the sons of God, even to them that do no more or less than to simply believe on his name ~*

Nicodemus observed a God-given religion, but that dispensation was ending. Nicodemus followed his religion meticulously, but Nicodemus was *NOT* a son of God. Jesus told Nikki “*ye must be born again.*” Let’s make this

plain and simple – and dogmatic: our prayers, water baptism, and fundamental separation combined with the gifts we boast of having will *NEVER* make us sons of God. The only thing that makes us sons of God is *F-A-I-T-H* in the Lord Jesus Christ. That’s Paul’s message to the “*foolishly bewitched*” Galatians.

Well, I have another statement to make — and I don’t want to be ugly — but I suppose I am going to be. The most damnable heresy ever propagated on mankind is the tandem blaspheme of the “*universal fatherhood of God*” and the “*universal brotherhood of mankind*” fallacy. That is the teaching of rank liberalism; which has led to the moral bankruptcy of the United States of America. The world hates us today – let’s just be real. If you don’t think so, then go travel abroad – trust me – they hate American hypocrites. They might love your dollars, but they’ll hate *YOU*. They hate us because we all seem to think we are the special elite children of God. Our diplomats speak and reveal we are the most horrible people alive, while we assure them we are honest and honorable. The foreign nations don’t buy our hypocrisy for one minute. They look at our society and laugh in disdain.

The Lord Jesus Christ never said anything that could even be remotely misconstrued as any of that. In fact, Jesus looked at the religious rulers and told them they were “*.... of their father the devil; so, of their father’s works they would do.*” Friends, don’t blame me for this message – blame God. Evidently, there were some in Jesus’ day who were *NOT* sons of God. Well, my observation is that Satan still has a whole lot of children running around in this world today – mostly in the church. The only way we can become sons of God is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection....

***27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***

~ This verse does not refer to water baptism in any way, shape or form. I believe in the ritual of water baptism, and I believe the method should be immersion. I was immersed in a *HIGHLY* Pentecostal church, Faith Assembly of God in Orlando, Florida. I believe in the ritual with all my heart, to be sure. I believe every believer should be baptized in water by immersion. The ritual of water baptism speaks of everything a *real* baptism is; which is

baptism by the Holy Spirit. We receive that baptism into the body of believers the very moment we trust Christ. It means we are *IDENTIFIED* with Him. We are placed into the reality and truth of the body of believers called the church. Verse twenty-seven means we are seen by God in Christ. That's how God sees us when we come to Him by faith – and it's a perfection that cannot be added to with the law. The law can only pollute grace.

Within this body of believers, there is neither Jew nor Greek. Interestingly, the Word of God is the *ONLY* teaching in the *WORLD* that rubs out racial lines, crosses capital and labor — and transcends gender. Any man or woman who has faith in Christ Jesus is my brother or sister — irrespective of their skin color or national origin. I'm only interested in the color of a man's heart. We have a lot of white people walking around with some very black hearts! They don't happen to be my brother or sister, I promise you that. I don't care if we had the same mother. If you aren't in Christ, then you and I are not related in any connection — except as sinners. I just happen to speak to every nation and race in the world every single day in the Spiritual Safari — and they call me brother. My family are those who obey the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ – and no one else....

***28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.***

***29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

~ We all know from our studies in Hebrews that Abraham was saved by faith alone. Abraham was looking forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ – just as we look *BACK* two thousand years plus now – when Jesus came to this world and died on the cross for our sins. I trust Him; and that's the only way I have life today. My faith is how I know I am of Abraham. Only this faith can bring us to the place of full maturation – the place where we can become fully grown spiritual adults. That's when we will bow down and humble ourselves before the Lord. Then, revival may happen. Let's cut out the baby stuff — so we can have a chance of God actually hearing and



responding to our demand that should be presented as a request for revival, shall we? ~

## IV

**<sup>1</sup> Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;**

**<sup>2</sup> But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.**

**<sup>3</sup> Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:**

~ As we continue in Galatians through this dreadfully long report, let's pray the Spirit of God will lead us into all truth and understanding now. We're all babes in Christ when we start out in our belief. We are to grow to spiritual maturity; and we are given the potential of becoming full-grown and completely developed sons of God. From the onset of salvation, we have a capacity we would not otherwise have. But our growth and development only comes from rightly dividing Holy Writ. Verse one is a different word for "child" than we had in chapter three verse twenty-six. There, the word was "wios" for "sons" – here it is "nepios" – which means "minor children." It is also from which we derive our word "nepotism." This refers to those who are not even legal adults. It means they're immature adolescents. Think all of that all the way through a few times very carefully, and see what you come up with. Paul has called them "foolish," "bewitched" and now he adds "immature."

To see Paul's illustration in action, we must refer to Roman times and customs. In the Roman home, certain servants had charge of certain possessions; some oversaw the chattels, some took charge over the livestock, some worked the kitchen, and so on. Well, some had charge of the male children. And until that male child grew to a certain age, he was treated the same as the rest of the servant's children. When the father recognized and determined that the child was capable of making his own decisions, then he declared him to occupy the position of full-grown son. It wasn't a mandated age. It was decided by the father alone. That's when



they had the ceremony known as the Toga Virilis. The son would be given a robe; and the signet ring signified power and position. That son now has the same authority as his father.

The “... *bondage under the elements of the world*” means “*under the law.*” Paul is saying the childhood of the nation Israel was the historical time period when they were under the Mosaic Law. However, when the fulness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, and born under the law. The Mosaic Law was in full-effect when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Some people today are now saying Jesus didn’t belong to any particular nation as far as race is concerned. I don’t know how puerile and jejune anyone can be – but it has become extreme. Naturally, the foolishness of atheists and apostates alike are just another attempt to take an all-inclusive, “*tolerant*” and sweet position — and make the Word of God have no meaning whatsoever. I’m sure the woman at the well knew more than most women know today; and the woman in Samaria called Jesus a Jew – because she knew good and well He was Jewish. I say that because Jesus had a perfect humanity, and He was also God manifest in the flesh. Mankind is tampering with that truth today, but we only have one historically accurate record of the Jesus Who is the Son of God....

***<sup>4</sup> But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,***

***<sup>5</sup> To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.***

~ “*Adoption*” is not defined today as the word is used in this passage. We think of a childless couple who legally bring an orphan child into their home to raise that child in modern times. Here, we’re still talking about the father’s own son; who was just given the Toga Virilis. This means adopted as a full-grown son. The Greek word means to “*place as a son.*”

Alright, perhaps this doesn’t mean much to you; but it means everything to me. See, the truth in the Word of God can only be interpreted by the Holy Spirit. Until God makes these things real to us, then we cannot understand them. That just happens to make all the difference in the world amongst

men. Some men have brilliant minds; and they may learn something of the history, archeology, and language of the Hebrew or Greek people; but, that same man can completely miss the message of the Word of God.

**Isaiah 64:** <sup>4</sup> *For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for Christ ~*

If we are sincere about knowing Christ, the Spirit of God will reveal Him to us. Even the Christian who has been in the Word for decades is as helpless in studying the Bible as any newborn babe in Christ. Only the Holy Spirit can open our understanding. There was a time when I was very ignorant of the Word of God. Most people think I still am, of course. I have to tell you: I have an inferiority complex trying to give these safari lessons. To me, it feels like baby talk from me when I speak to some people who have been saved longer than I have been alive. Well, God really opened my eyes to the fact that there are some people who are much older than me, but who have *NO IDEA* what the Bible teaches; they're still spiritual babes. They never grew up. Well, the only way we can ever grow is to study the Word of God in an educated manner; and have the Holy Spirit teach us through the man Personally ordained of God. If we're not willing to do that, we're never going to grow up....

**<sup>6</sup> *And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.***

~ Another desire the law can never satisfy is the *EXPERIENCE* of being sons of God. We all need that experience today. Paul said in Romans, ".... *the Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God.*" The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwelleth in us. That same Spirit quickens this mortal body by indwelling us. If we, through the Spirit, do mortify the body, we shall live as sons; ".... as many who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God!" Any genuine child of God wants to be led by the Holy Spirit. We will have problems in the flesh, and we'll never be happy or satisfied with fleshly things as mature saints....

***<sup>7</sup> Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.***

~ Many people seem to think the only way to have an experience with God is to be on some high level of holy sanctification; *OR* to continually seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. These people think that if we don't attain to that precariously high level – *THEIR* level, by the way – then we'll never have a legitimate spiritual experience. Well, anyone can have an experience at any time as a son of God when they are in the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ and worshipping in Spirit. Anyone who thinks we must have an experience to arrive at truth doesn't hold the truth of the Word of God – because we have it right here. Faith alone can and will produce an experience; but it will be an experience that is in keeping with the Word of God. Christians *ALWAYS* move from the Word of God to experience – *NEVER* the other way around; because everyone's experience is different. If that were the case, I wouldn't know whose experience to trust. I see a whole lot of people talk about their experiences – but I would much rather trust the Word of God.

Further, truth and experience aren't mutually exclusive. They have a very real connection. It is the *ORDER* of the two that has eternal consequences. Only the proper order provides a way of salvation. An improper order brings the damnation of hell. We're dealing with a very important link in the chain of Paul's overall teaching in Galatians. Sometimes, you and I won't have much of a so-called Christian experience. In fact, the Christian life can become very drab and mindlessly monotonous. I think the lonely times when we are desperate are the best experiences we have with God. When there is no way out, and we have no answers, is when our Father in Heaven answers; and truly becomes a reality to us, friends.

I'm sure there are some who, if the Lord had not made Himself real to you, you would have gone mad. I suspect Paul was a little lonely in that Mamertine prison when he said, "*.... all others have forsaken me, but the Lord stood by me.*" That's a pitiful statement. Have you ever felt that way? I have. It's wonderful to have that type of a relationship with our Heavenly Father, friends. Jesus said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*" I pray we all can have that closeness with God today. Those who don't have that connection to Christ are in a dark and disparaging place....

**8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.**

**9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?**

**10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.**

**11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.**

**12 Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.**

**13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.**

**14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.**

**15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.**

**16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?**

**17 They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.**

**18 But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.**

**19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,**

**20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.**

~ Paul now says that to place ourselves back under the law is the same as idolatry! These Galatians had come out of idolatry, and went right back into idolatry by the law. You little do-gooders better think this one through all the way. In verse eleven, I think Paul is trying to say he thinks he wasted his time even speaking with these people. This is deeply personal; and Paul politely injects this in an attempt to identify with the Galatian church.

We need to recognize there is no difference between us and other believers. The Galatians had been listening to false teachers and they viewed him as an enemy because he was telling them truth. Well, Paul told them he had his own thorn in the flesh, and I think we can identify that thorn as eye trouble from verse fifteen. I can't see them wanting to pluck their eyes out to give to him if he needed an arm or a leg. Either way, I think that thorn made him very unattractive and difficult to look at.

If I ever have a pulpit of my own, it will have engraved on my side ".... sir, we would see Jesus." On the *other* side - facing the congregation - would be verse sixteen. Most people say they want the truth, but they *DO NOT* want the truth. They want the "love" but they don't hate what God hates. Anyone preaching the law is doing so for *THEIR* benefit – never *YOURS*. They're only looking for a convert count to turn in as a report — a false report.

Now, I happen to know something about cults and false teachers today. Everything about them, including the individuals, are attractive and easy to look at. It's all easy to accept. They make you feel as if you just woke up. They're extremely subtle and present as learned and highly educated; and they usually have a whole lot of money. The problem is their *INTERPRETATION*. It's usually just a complete denial of the Word of God. And they attract a vast crowd with myriad heresies....

**21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?**

~ Well, let's hear the law. Those who constantly talk about the Ten Commandments and the Mosaic Law never seem to get around to the *PENALTY* for breaking *ANY* of those laws – which was always death. I have never heard *ANYONE* who erroneously believes they keep the law present a proper teaching of the law in its full-orbed ministry of condemnation. It just never happens. When God called Moses to the Mountain to give him the law, the people were told to stand far off – or they would die.

**Exodus 19:** <sup>16</sup> *And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. <sup>17</sup> And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. <sup>18</sup> And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. <sup>19</sup> And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. <sup>20</sup> And the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish ~*

**Exodus 20:** <sup>19</sup> *And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die ~*

See, you and I cannot possibly conceive of how holy God really is. We are, actually, renegades and revolutionaries in this universe. We are in the precarious position of willfully disobeying God! We are lost sinners with no capacity for the things of Christ – at all. To be carnally minded is death – but to be spiritually minded is life and peace eternal. The carnal mind is enmity against God. This world just happens to be against God; not for Him. The world isn't getting better in any way. In fact, we're becoming more evil each and every second. It's been bad since the day God put Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, by the way. God is high and holy and lifted up; whereas you and I are just creatures down here making mud pies contrary

to the Word of God. That's all we can make because we were made out of mud physically....

***22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.***

***23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.***

***24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.***

***25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.***

***26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.***

***27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.***

***28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.***

***29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.***

***30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.***

***31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.***

~ The freewoman in this alleged allegory represents a lesson in *GRACE*; the bond woman speaks of the *LAW*. Well, the account of Abraham is *NOT* an allegory – it's a factual account. The facts that happened contain an allegory; and it has a very real message for us today. One comes from



Mount Sinai, and one comes from Calvary. The code of Hammurabi in Abraham's day said that the son of a slave woman was a slave – period. Ishmael was born as a slave – even in the home of Abraham. Sarah, the freewoman, was by promise. Isaac was a miracle child; and his birth was miraculous. We are told the womb of Sarah was *DEAD*. Out of that death God brought life! Isaac was not only a birth — but a miraculous resurrection.

Jerusalem, in verse twenty-five, is the Jerusalem here on earth; but the Jerusalem in verse twenty-six is the New Jerusalem in Heaven; which comes down from God. Only when we trust Christ in faith can we ever be truly born again. Verse twenty-nine is strong; and says legalism *HATES* the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. That hate is natural; because grace requires *NOTHING* from us. So, the free grace of God is rejected totally by legalism. Prophecy never gets us into trouble; but preaching the pure grace of God will get you beat over the head – every time! Well, I say: we have everything we need in the Lord Jesus Christ. God is telling us *ALL* to get rid of the legalism and place *ALL* the emphasis on His Son. Have we really trusted Christ today — or do we carry a spare tire on our little Bible bus — just in case? Adding anything to what Christ did for us is to not trust Him at all — period ~

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